

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 EB-07 IGA-01 INR-07

/046 W

----- 123417

R 301630Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7837

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1314

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK, TD, EINV

SUBJ: BRIBERY OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS BY US CORPORATIONS

REF: STATE 120843

1. CHARGE' D' AFFAIRES DISCUSSED ABOVE SUBJECT AT SOME LENGTH MAY 28 WITH DR. CUTHBERT JOSEPH, MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND LEFT COPY OF OFFICIAL USG STATEMENT CONDEMNING ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY U.S. CORPORATIONS ABROAD (STATE 114551).

2. JOSEPH EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN SUBJECT. HE CAREFULLY RECAPITULATED POINTS DISCUSSED AND IT WAS QUITE CLEAR THAT HE UNDERSTOOD USG CONCERN THAT COMPANIES NOT BE TARRED WITH GUILT BY ASSOCIATION AND THAT ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE NONDISCRIMINATORY. I ASSURED JOSEPH THAT OUR DISCUSSION DID NOT SUGGEST THAT WE HAD ANY SUSPICION THAT ANY FIRM OPERATING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN ANY IMPROPER ACTIVITY OF THE KIND ALREADY REVEALED IN THE PRESS, AND BELIEVE HE FULLY ACCEPTED THIS ASSURANCE.

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3. IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCLOSURES ARISING

FROM CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS OF CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE AND SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, JOSEPH REQUESTED SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UNITED BRANDS AND GULF OIL CASES WHICH HAVE ALREADY MADE HEADLINES. WE PLAN TO PROVIDE SOME MATERIAL FROM ARA PRESS CLIPS WHICH SUMMARIZES MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF THESE CASES, BUT IF GOTT SHOULD REQUEST MORE OFFICIAL MATERIAL WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S ADVICE AS TO WHETHER THIS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE, AND IN WHAT FORM. PRESUME CHURCH SUBCOMMITTEE WILL EVENTUALLY PUBLISH RECORD OF ITS HEARINGS.

4. I BELIEVE USG INITIATIVE TO BRING OUR POSITION ON THESE HEADLINE EVENTS PRIVATELY AND DIRECTLY TO ATTENTION OF GOTT WAS SOUND STEP WHICH SHOULD MITIGATE REACTION HERE AND PLACES US IN POSITION TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE SHOULD ANY LOCAL PROBLEMS EVER ARISE. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS NO INDICATION THAT ANY IMPROPER ACTIVITY BY AMERICAN FIRMS HAS TAKEN PLACE HERE.

5. DEPTTEL 124032 ONLY RECEIVED AFTER CONVERSATION WITH DR. JOSEPH, BUT FROM TENOR OF THAT CONVERSATION BELIEVE HE WAS UNAWARE MAY 28 OF PERUVIAN PROPOSAL TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN OAS FORUM. BELIEVE OUR DISCUSSION HAD MORE IMPACT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES THAN IT WOULD HAVE HAD AS APPARENT USG EFFORT TO DEFLECT CRITICISM IN OAS.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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TAGS: BBAK, EINV, TD, UNITED BRANDS, GULF OIL, (JOSEPH, CUTHBERT)
To: STATE
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